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## REVIEWS

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*The Alien Problem and Its Remedy.* By M. J. LANDA. London: P. S. King & Son, 1911. Pp. xv+327.

The average American citizen probably will be surprised to learn that there is such a thing as an immigration problem in England. Somebody must think that there is, for there have been several investigations, Parliament has passed an act relating to it, and Mr. Landa has written a book about it. Yet, when the average American learns that the number of aliens in England in 1901 was only 286,925, that they decreased every year from 1904 to 1907 inclusive with a total decrease of 46,873, and that they have increased only 17,550 since then, the increase for 1910 being only 3,637, he will still be inclined to ask what all this stir is about. Mr. Landa has let the secret out, that most of these aliens are Jews, principally from Russia, and a good many people do not like Jews.

It appears that the agitation began in the early eighties, when half a million dollars was raised to aid the Jews fleeing from Russia. In a short time someone raised the cry that England was being made the dumping-ground of the continent, and that the East End was becoming badly congested. The government ordered an investigation in 1887 and the Board of Trade presented a more elaborate report in 1894. Whether because in earnest or for political effect, Lord Salisbury, then in opposition, introduced an aliens' bill and Mr. Chamberlain declared for the exclusion of aliens. The arguments used in support of the agitation for such legislation were the greatness of the influx, that it was producing overcrowding, that the aliens were displacing natives in certain industries and lowering the standard of living, that they caused an increase of crime, and were introducing an element unacquainted with the English language and lacking in patriotism.

However, after having ridden into office, the Conservatives dropped this matter and it was not taken up again until 1904 and no bill was passed until 1905, just on the eve of the fall of the ministry. Then an act was passed dealing with the question in some detail. It prohibits the landing of undesirables, gives the proper authori-

ties power to order their expulsion, establishes a system of furnishing returns of aliens, and throws considerable responsibility on the masters of ships. "Undesirable" immigrants are defined as those who cannot show themselves in a position to obtain the means of *decently* supporting themselves and dependents, persons diseased in mind or body, if likely to become a charge upon the poor-rates or detrimental to the public, and criminals.

With spirited loyalty to his race Mr. Landa has endeavored to disprove the arguments used in support of this bill and has marshaled a number of facts to sustain his contention. Naturally the administration of such a law, where so much must be left to the discretion of the officials, may lead to serious abuses. Mr. Landa has given a number of cases, some of which might be closely paralleled in this country. The very first case to arise was one in which asylum was denied to shipwrecked sailors until the American consul appealed directly to the government. Then star-chamber proceedings were resorted to and the press agents were excluded until an order was secured for their admission. Families were torn asunder and some of the best immigrants were sent away on mere technicalities. In consequence, after a five years' trial, "the Aliens Act stands before the bar of public opinion anathematized almost by all, understood by few." That the future of the law must be different from its past is conceded by both the government and the opposition and both have introduced bills to that effect, but so far nothing has been accomplished. Mr. Landa confesses that some sort of regulation is necessary and his suggestions for a remedy of the existing law concern administrative details more than its fundamental principles.

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*The Better Country.* By DANA W. BARTLETT. Boston: C. M. Clark Publishing Co., 1911. Pp. 564. \$1.50 net.

The purpose of this book is to explain some of the methods and institutions (individual, municipal, state, and national) which are bettering human life. It is not intended to be an exhaustive study of all the uplift work of the nation, but rather illustrative of the methods employed and also suggestive of what more can be done. One seldom appreciates the manifold efforts at human betterment until they are passed in survey by such a work. It is a popular